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REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18, added new claims 24-27 and canceled claim 23 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the claims as amended.

The Examiner has objected to claims 19 and 20 as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim since in the Examiner's opinion the claims are identical in content to claims 15 and 17. In reply thereto, Applicant would like to point out that in claims 19 and 20, the holes are provided in the hard portion of the belt while claims 15 and 17 do not particularly point out or claim that the holes are provided in a hard portion of the belt. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 19 and 20 are not identical to claims 15 and 17.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings stating that the drawings must show each and every feature of the claimed invention. Applicant has amended the claims and respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims provide claims which contain elements all of which are shown in the drawings. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his objection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19-23 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Fukasawa et al., stating that Fukasawa et al. discloses all of the claimed invention.

In reply thereto, Applicant respectfully submits that Fukasawa et al. discloses only a means for connecting the belts at both ends to the goggle portion and does not disclose that a pair of belts would be provided which are coupled to the goggle portion at one end and coupled together at the other end by the connecting/disconnecting mechanism. Still further, the Examiner suggests that the back portion of the belt is wider in Fukasawa et al. than the side belt portions and the belt is thicker, and therefore harder, at the connection areas near the holes. In reply thereto, Applicant respectfully submits that a view of all of the figures of Fukasawa et al. indicates that the belt as it is connected to the hinge 12 is the same the thickness as any other portion of the belt. The mere fact that the belt may be wider or narrower has no effect on the hardness. The only sense in which the belt might be argued to be thicker is the fact that after being placed on the pin 12, the belt is overlapped on itself and Applicant respectfully submits that this has no effect on the hardness or

softness of the belt.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Fukasawa et al. does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention and claims 1-3, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19-22 and 24-27 are not anticipated by Fukasawa et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 12 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Runckel, stating that Runckel discloses all of Applicant's invention.

Applicant has carefully reviewed Runckel and respectfully submits that it teaches a structure substantially the same as Fukasawa et al. in that it merely discloses a single belt or perhaps a pair of belts which are coupled by a disconnect mechanism at their ends to the goggle portion. Clearly, this is not Applicant's invention. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 12 are not anticipated by Runckel.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 1, 2, 12, 14, 16 and 18 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Tsubooka, stating that Tsubooka discloses all of the claimed invention.

Again, Applicant's review of Tsubooka indicates that it is substantially the same as Runckel and Fukasawa et al. in that it discloses a single belt and a mechanism for connecting the two ends of the belt to the goggle portion and does not disclose that there would be a pair of belts with one end of each belt connected to the eye cup portion and the other end connected together by a quick connect/disconnect mechanism.


Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Tsubooka does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention and claims 1, 2, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 24-27 are not anticipated by Tsubooka.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Rule 116 Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

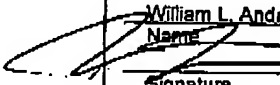
Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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